Planning Series

MICHIPICOTEN POST PROVINCIAL PARK

Interim Management Statement

Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources

Hon. Vincent G. Kerrio
Minister

Mary Mogford
Deputy Minister

Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

July 28, 1986

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL STATEMENT

This Interim Management Statement will provide interim direction for the management of Michipicoten Post Provincial Park until a comprehensive Park Management Plan is prepared.

This statement will provide the basis for the subsequent preparation of the Park Management Plan.

I am pleased to approve this Interim Management Statement for Michipicoten Post Provincial Park.

M. A. Klugman
Regional Director
Northeastern Region

3520

ISBN 07729-1261-0

C 1986 Government of Ontario

Additional information about the park and copies of this publication are available from the District Manager, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 1160, 22 Mission Road, Wawa, Ontario, P0S 1K0, telephone: (705) 856-2396.

MICHIPICOTEN POST PROVINCIAL PARK
INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

I NAME CHANGE

Michipicoten Provincial Park does not adequately describe the historic significance of the site. There will now be some confusion of names with Michipicoten Island Provincial Park.

Guidelines:

The name of the park should be changed to Michipicoten Post Provincial Park. This more adequately describes the historical context of the park. It also would reduce the confusion with Michipicoten Island Provincial Park.

II RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Existing recreation use of the park is low. There is some picnicking, walking, hunting, off road vehicle use, and shore camping by canoeists.

Marina development east of the park will increase the number of boats on the river. All the historical sites are easily accessible by boat.

Guidelines:

A sign should be erected in a suitable location at the Hudson's Bay Company fur trade post to make all visitors aware of the importance of the site, that it is a provincial park, and that the site is protected by legislation.

The parking lot at Driftwood Beach should have a sign indicating that vehicle travel is prohibited beyond that point. This would stop the use of the fragile backshore area by off road vehicles.

Sport hunting will continue until management planning assesses the need for hunting in the park area.

III COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

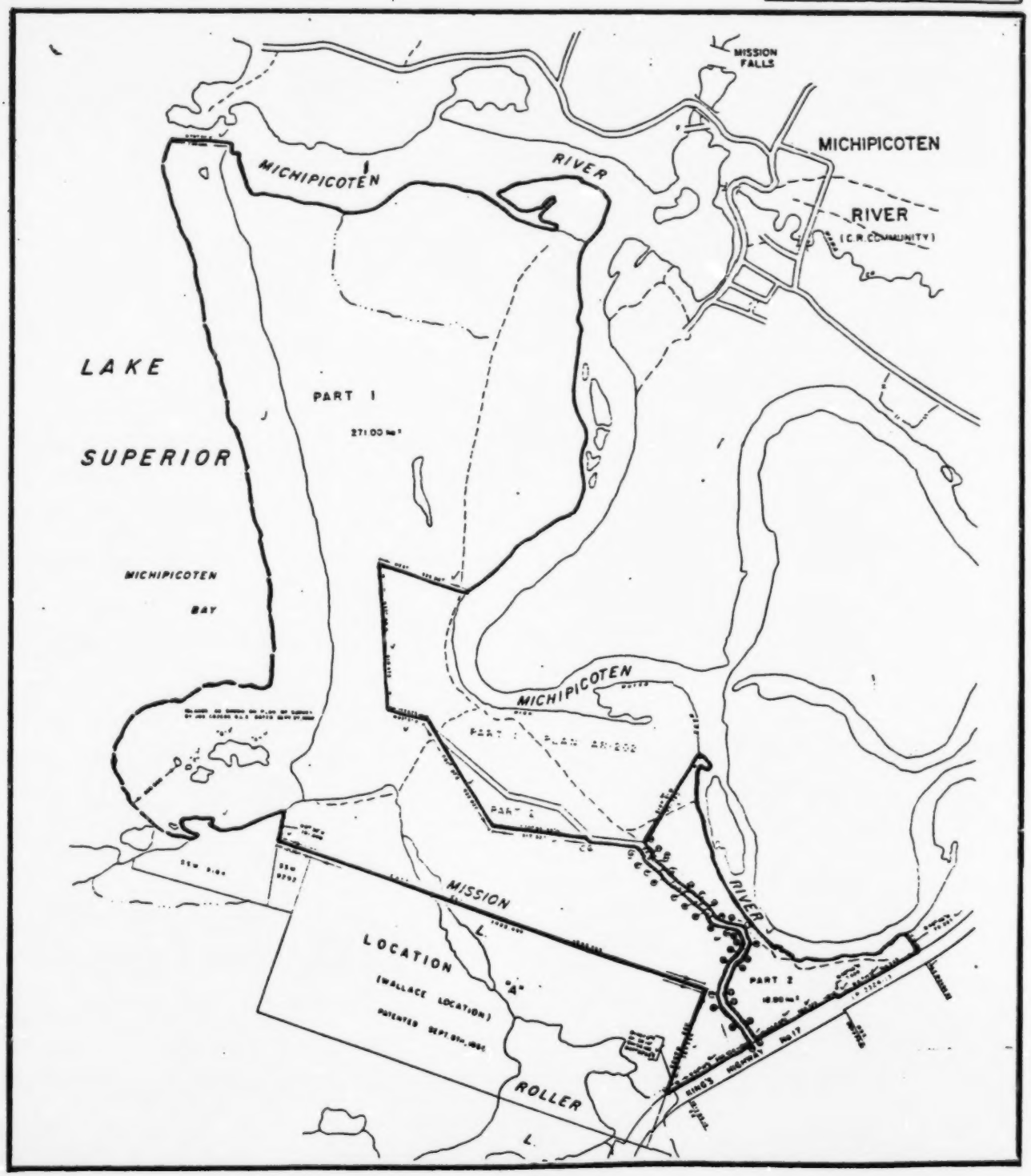
The only commercial activity in the park is trapping. The park makes up a very small portion of trapline WA-83.

Guidelines:

Commercial trapping will be phased out in a manner least harmful to the trapper.

Figure 1

MICHIPICOTEN POST PROVINCIAL PARK



IV EXISTING/PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Present development is limited to a gravel access road, small parking lot, and two privies at the south end of Driftwood Beach.

Proposed future park development could include the partial or complete restoration of the fur trade posts.

The park is surrounded by patent land on three sides. This patent land is the site of several "camps" and a "fort", which are in poor condition due to neglect. The "fort" property has been for sale for several years.

Guidelines:

Management planning will determine the appropriate level of development.

Planning for tourism development is underway in the adjacent Township of Michipicoten. Development of the park could be part of a comprehensive tourism development strategy for the township. The Ministry of Natural Resources will have input and opportunities to comment on the development proposals through the Ministry of Natural Resources plan review procedure.

The day use at Driftwood beach will be allowed to continue. It will be monitored to ensure that natural and cultural resources of the park are not damaged.

V CULTURAL RESOURCES

There are 12 known historical and archaeological sites within and adjacent to the park.

Guidelines:

- a comprehensive archaeological and historical inventory of the area, in cooperation with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, is recommended;
- all documented sites will be checked on a routine basis to make sure they are not damaged;
- signs indicating that archaeological excavations require permission for the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture may be necessary at the main Hudson's Bay Company site; and,
- the Ministry of Natural Resources, through normal procedures, will monitor activity that will endanger the archaeological sites adjacent to the park.

VI RESEARCH

Historical and archaeological research was undertaken in the 1960's and 1970's. There are still gaps in the information of the area.

Natural resource inventories have not been done for the park area.

Guidelines:

- additional historical and archaeological research, in cooperation with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, is required;
- earth and life science inventories are required for the park area before the management plan can be prepared;
- river bank erosion should be monitored to determine future impacts on the park area;
- the need for research will be promoted through the Research catalogue of the Ministry of Natural Resources; and,
- all research must be approved in advance by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

VII VISITOR SERVICES

At present, there is a limited demand for information/ interpretation of the park area.

Guidelines:

Until the management plan is prepared, information and interpretation will be limited to an up-to-date reference library in the District Office.

VIII MARKETING

The only use of the park area that is presently promoted is day use at Driftwood Beach.

Guidelines:

The low key approach to marketing will continue until a management plan has been prepared to address management and marketing needs.

Any reference about the park in marketing-type publications (Provincial Park Rates and Dates, Ontario Highway map, etc.) will indicate that it is day use only, that there are limited facilities available for park visitors.

REFERENCES

Bouse, David, The Hudson's Bay Co., Michipicoten Post, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1972.

Forma, Gary, Michipicoten Archaeology, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1972.

Caring for History, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1982.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies, 1978.

Land Use Guidelines - Wawa District, 1983.

Shchepanek, M.J., A Report on the Early History of the Michipicoten Trading Post Sites, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1972.

Weiler, John, Michipicoten: Planning Alternatives, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1973.

Michipicoten: A historic landmark, Ontario Naturalist, December, 1974.

Michipicoten: Hudson's Bay Company Post 1821-1904 Heritage Planning Study 5, Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, 1980.

Wright, J.V., The Michipicoten Site, National Museums of Canada, Bulletin 224, 1968.